

Appl. # 10/651059
Amdt. Dated Dec.20, 2005
Reply to Office action of Dec.20, 2005

Claims 1-25 (cancelled)

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Claim 26 (new): A dental matrix band for restoring a tooth with restorative material comprising, a boomerang shaped body having at least one hole, said at least one hole having a periphery contained entirely within said body and said at least one hole having a size and shape for allowing the restorative material to extrude through said at least one hole during use, a contiguous appendage extending above the border of said body and located directly above said at least one hole, said body further comprising at least one weakening notch being contiguous with said hole and extending from the periphery of said at least one hole into the body of the band, whereby, after applying a constrictive force, said at least one hole and said at least one weakening notch allows the band to be easily separated and removed after use.

Claim 27 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 26 which [may] possess more than one extrusion window or hole to allow for extrusion of a restorative material.

Claim 28 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 26 [which may contain] and further includes a plurality of weakening or separating notches in different configurations to effect a lateral separation through said hole of said band.

Claim 29 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 26 wherein [there is one weakening or separating notch] said band includes a plurality of weakening or separating notches, and one of said notches is located on the inferior border of said band's body in alignment with said hole.

Claim 30 (new): The matrix band of claim 26 wherein [there is a weakening or separating notch] said band includes a plurality of weakening or separating notches, and one of the notches is located at the inferior border of said hole.

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Claim 31(new): The dental matrix band of claim 26 wherein said band includes a plurality of weakening and separating notches, one of said notches is located on the inferior border of said hole and is in alignment with a second weakening or separating notch which is located [there is a weakening or separating notch on the inferior border of said hole in alignment with a weakening or separating notch] on the inferior border of said band's body.

Claim 32 (new): The matrix band of claim 26 where said band includes a plurality of weakening or separating notches, and one of the notches is located [there is a weakening or separating notch] in the superior aspect of said hole.

Claim 33 (new): The matrix band of claim 26 wherein said band includes a plurality of weakening and separating notches, one of said notches is located in the superior aspect of said hole and is in alignment with a second weakening or separating notch which is located on the inferior border of said body. [there are weakening or separating notches in the superior aspect of said hole, and in the inferior border of the band of which both notches are in alignment with each other.]

Claim 34 (new): The matrix band of claim 26 wherein said band includes a plurality of weakening and separating notches, one of said notches is located on the inferior border of said hole and is in alignment with a second weakening or separating notch which is located on the superior aspect of said hole. [there are weakening or separating notches in the superior and inferior aspects of said hole, of which both notches are in alignment with each other.]

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Claim 35 (new): The matrix band of claim 26 wherein said band includes a plurality of weakening and separating notches, one of said notches is located on the inferior border of said body, a second weakening or separating notch is located on the inferior border of said hole or extrusion window, and a third weakening or separating notch located on the superior border of the hole or extrusion window, all of said notches are in alignment with each other. [there are weakening or separating notches in alignment with each other located on the inferior border of said body, the inferior border of said hole or extrusion window, and the superior border of the hole or extrusion window.]

Claim 36(new): A method for restoring inter-proximal tooth contact comprising:

(a) providing a boomerang shaped body having at least one hole, said at least one hole having a periphery contained entirely within the body and said hole having a size and shape for allowing the restorative material to extrude through said hole during use, a contiguous appendage extending above the border of said body and located directly above said hole, said body further comprising at least one weakening notch being contiguous with said hole and extending from the periphery of said at least one hole into the body of the band,

(b) providing a prepared decayed tooth with one or more prepared inter-proximal surfaces,

(c) attaching said boomerang shaped body to a retaining device and placing said body circumferentially around said decayed prepared tooth aligning at least one said hole with one or more prepared inter-proximal surfaces of a decayed prepared tooth,

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- (d) positioning said at least one said hole with said one or more inter-proximal surfaces,
- (e) [the] introducing of a restorative material within the confines of said enveloped prepared tooth such that it will traverse said inter-proximally positioned hole,
- (f) administering a number of restorative steps to produce a restored tooth,
- (g) removing said boomerang shaped body from said restored tooth.

Claim 37(new): A method for removing a matrix band placed circumferentially around a tooth comprising:

(a) providing a boomerang shaped body having at least one hole, said at least one hole having a periphery contained entirely within the body and said hole having a size and shape for allowing the restorative material to extrude through said hole during use, a contiguous appendage extending above the border of said body and located directly above said hole, said body further comprising at least one weakening notch being contiguous with said hole and extending from the periphery of said at least one hole into the body of the band, [providing a boomerang shaped body of material to wrap around a tooth possessing one or more weakening or separating notches within said body that align inferior-superiorly through at least one hole with a continuous periphery formed within said boomerang shaped body's intact hole or extrusion window and terminates within a superiorly positioned appendage that is contiguous to the superior border of said band's body.]

(b) attaching said body to a retaining device and placing said body circumferentially around a tooth with one or more prepared inter-proximal surfaces,

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- (c) initiating a separation of the superior aspect of said semi-circular appendage,
- (d) providing a constrictive force to effect a lateral separation of said boomerang shaped body through said at least one hole,
- (e) removing said separated boomerang shaped body from said restored tooth.